The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(e) No action has been taken against any officer as the available information had been given to the applicants.

Tele-density in rural areas of Orissa

3833. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to set up a common telecom infrastructure that can be shared by multiple service providers to reduce telecom infrastructure cost and improve tele-density in the rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present tele-density in rural areas of Orissa; and

(d) the action plan to further improve this tele-density in rural areas of Orissa under the above projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A scheme has been launched by the Government to provide support for setting up and managing 7871 number of infrastructure sites spread over 500 districts in the country for provision of mobile services including other Wireless Access Services like Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) using Fixed/Mobile terminals in the specified rural and remote areas of the country including of Orissa, where there is no existing fixed wireless or mobile coverage.

(c) As on 31st March, 2007, the tele-density of rural areas of Orissa is 2.24%.

(d) Total 432 numbers of towers are to be set up in specified rural and remote areas in 30 districts of Orissa as per details given in the Statement.

Statement

Details of rural segments in Orissa to rural be covered under the project for setting up cellular infrastructure in areas with support from USOF

SI. No.	District	No. of Towers	No. of villages getting covered by the Towers
1.	Anugul	11	359
2.	Balangir	21	857
3.	Baleshwar	25	1,427
4.	Bargarh	28	757
5.	Baudh	2	123
6.	Bhadrak	10	639
7.	Cuttack	11	534
8.	Debagarh	2	68
9.	Dhenkanal	19	515
10.	Gajapati	9	485
11.	Ganjam	29	965
12.	Jagatsinghapur	10	477
13.	Jajapur	11	692
14.	Jharsuguda	6	140
15.	Kalahandi	28	655
16.	Kandhamal	7	310
17.	Kendrapara	12	784
18.	Kendujhar	15	570
19.	Khorda	4	244
20.	Koraput	26	722
21.	Malkangiri	13	246
22.	Mayurbhanj	18	918
23.	Nabarangapur	37	596
24.	Nayagarh	9	515
25.	Naupada	15	331
26.	Puri	9	609
27.	Rayagada	12	393
28.	Sambalpur	10	293
29.	Sonapur	8	349
30.	Sundargarh	15	357
	TOTAL:	432	15,930